

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 19, have been amended. Claim 20 has been cancelled. Claims 1-13, 15-19, and 21-22 are pending and under consideration.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the specification of the present invention should include a sentence identifying the priority application of the subject application. In response, Applicants have amended the specification accordingly. In particular, Applicants have added the priority information in the first paragraph of the specification and have deleted the priority information from the paragraph beginning on page 16.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification due to a typographical error at page 14, line 15. Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

On page 4, claims 1, 7, 8, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner rejected the claims due to their recitation of "proximal station name of a user." Applicants have amended the claims to remove the phrase, "name of a user."

In the web site system of the present invention, a "proximal station" is registered based on convenience of a user. A "proximal station" may be a station to which the user can reach in a shorter time, a station which the user can reach by fewer number of transfers or stations to go to a destination, a station which the user can reach on the way to a destination, a station which does not have a crowded train, or a station which is close to a shop or an institution the user daily uses in a distance from a certain station (e.g., destination such as another station near an office) to the home, or the like. See Specification, page 12, lines 1-11, for example. See *also* Specification, page 5, lines 34-37.

As the user is accustomed to the home and the proximal station, by searching information from both a predetermined range of the home and a predetermined range of the proximal station, it is possible to retrieve most practical and useful information for the user. In addition, the user does not need to input a desired station each time the search is conducted.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims comply with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The specification provides a standard for measuring the degree of proximity referred to in the claims. For example, according to the specification, the proximal station includes a 500m circumstance. See Specification, Page 5, lines 34-37. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 18 for the alleged indefiniteness of claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the fact that a claim includes terms of degree such as "proximal" does not necessarily render the claim indefinite. See *Seattle Box Co., v. Industrial Crating & Packing, Inc.*, 731 F.2d 818, 221 USPQ 568 (Fed. Cir. 1984). See also MPEP 2173.05(b). As the specification provides a standard for measuring the degree of proximity referred to in the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim term "proximal station" is definite. For example, according to the specification, the proximal station includes a 500m circumstance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that he is confused by the term "so that" in claim 13. In response, Applicants have amended the claim to remove the term.

The Examiner rejected claim 18 as being indefinite due to the recitation of the term "fine day" (the Examiner apparently inadvertently used the term "nice day" in the rejection). In response to the rejection, Applicants have amended the claim to replace the term "fine day" with the term, "a day without rain."

Regarding claim 18, the Examiner indicated that he is confused by the claim language "wherein information available on foot." In response, Applicants have amended the claim to replace the term with, "wherein information regarding traveling by foot."

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are clearly directed to the technological arts, naming the technological arts involving web site systems. For example, claim 1 clearly recites, "A web site system." One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the term "web site" as referring to a computer connected to the Internet that maintains a series of web pages on the World Wide Web. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,574,608 to Dahod. According to Dahod, it generally describes a Web-based buyer-driven system for connecting buyers and sellers. See FIG. 1 and columns 3 and 4. Buyers post on the web site descriptions of products and services they desire along with some personal information such as demographic information that might serve to qualify them to potential sellers. Interested sellers of those products and services can then communicate with buyers they have selected.

According to the present invention as defined by claim 11, it is directed to a method for searching information in which information suitable for a service type is provided by changing a search region for each service type. For example, a "surrounding neighborhood" region can be

changed to another region and information relating to a hospital service type can be provided in accordance thereto. See FIG. 2. See also page 10, lines 28-34. Thus, information can be provided according to a search region, i.e., if a first search region is specified, the provided information can be different than the provided information if a second search region was specified.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over Dahod, as Dahod does not teach, "providing information suitable for a service type by changing a search region for each service type," as recited in claim 11. Rather, according to Dahod, its system will automatically insert into a field certain profile information previously filled in by a buyer in a form. Merely automatically inserting profile information into a field is not tantamount to changing a search region for each service type. In Dahod, the system does not provide information by changing a search region. In fact, the Dahod system does not change information. It merely automatically inserts profile information into a field.

Claims 12, 17, and 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,718 to Fano (hereinafter Fano).

Applicants respectfully submit that Fano does not teach, "registering a home address and a proximal station." Rather, according to Fano, it discloses a customer profile database including personal information about customers such as a name, an address, a social security number and credit card information. See Fano, column 29, lines 25-30. Fano does not teach both registering a home address and a proximal station. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is patentable over Fano, as it does not teach the above-identified feature.

Regarding claim 17, Fano does not teach, "storing information indicating the current location as a move history." According to the present invention, the service site stores obtained information related to the current location of the user in a move history in the member information database. See Specification of the Present Invention, page 12, lines 22-26.

In contrast, Fano merely provides a statement indicating that information is personalized by taking into account a history of user interactions. As merely considering a user's history of interactions is clearly different than storing information indicating a current location as a move history, claim 17 is patentable over Fano. Fano provides no information regarding a move, much less a move history. As claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 17, these dependent claims are patentable over Fano for at least the reason offered above with respect to claim 17.

According to Fano, it describes a situation wherein information is presented on offerings of interest only from immediately surrounding stores. When asked for alternatives, the Fano

system restricts itself to all stores within the mall. Fano provides no additional details regarding the restriction. As the statement does not provide an indication that an excluding part performs restriction, claim 19 is patentable over Fano. For example, the Fano system appears to be restricted to stores within a particular mall by default, as it specifically states that offerings of interest only from immediately surrounding stores are presented. In other words, instead of having an exclusion part, the Fano only includes information pertaining to a certain group. Therefore, amended claim 19 is patentable over Fano, as Fano does not teach the excluding part, as identified in the claim.

Claims 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,424,912 to Correia. According to the Examiner, Correia discloses providing information suitable for a moving direction of a user by changing a search condition based on the moving direction. According to Correia, a vehicle destination may be input by the vehicle client and received by a navigation subsystem through the at least one service management subsystem. Applicants respectfully submit that Correia does not disclose the claimed feature of the present invention in that when the moved distance becomes more than a predetermined distance, the information including one or more transfer stations is provided. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahod in view of Fano. As the Examiner admits, Dahod fails to disclose the retrieval of information available in a predetermined range of the home address. The Examiner alleges, however, that Fano discloses the feature.

According to Dahod, it is directed to a web-based buyer-driven system of commerce connecting buyers and sellers. The system includes a web site accessible by potential buyers and sellers. Sellers can access descriptions of products posted by buyers and post responses to buyers. If a potential buyer retrieves a response directed to him from a potential seller, the system charges the potential seller a fee. Dahod does not provide or suggest classifying received member information from the user.

Likewise, according to Fano, it merely teaches a system for location-based filtering for a shopping agent. In the Fano system, an item of interest is obtained from a user, and the physical location of the user is determined. A query based on the items of interest and the physical location of the user is then created. No classification of member information occurs in Fano.

Fano allows a user to register as more than one person so that a first user registers a home and a second person registers an office address (column 30, lines 24-39). However, for example, when the user purchases a product regarding a work of the user, the user is required to select the second user (column 30, lines 34-36). In contrast to Fano, in at least one embodiment of the present invention, the user registers both the home and the proximal station (page 5, line 32 – page 6, line 4).

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 7, and 8 are patentable over the references for the above-identified reasons. As claims 2-6 and 9-10 depend from independent claims 1 and 8, respectively, these claims are patentable over the references for the same reasons.

On page 17 of the Office Action, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,718 (Fano). The section of Fano cited by the Examiner merely describes a situation in which a shopper queries a system to suggest a store at any time based on the shopper's current location. Fano is completely silent as to changing a search condition *based on a moving speed* of the user, as recited in claim 13. In the present invention, information related to supermarkets and stations along a moving direction is excluded when the user moves a train, since the user cannot get off easily. However, Fano states, "accordingly, information is presented on offerings of interest only from the immediately surrounding stores because these are the immediately available options." See Fano, column 49, lines 25-27. The method of proposing the information to the user in the present invention is opposed to the method of Fano. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 is clearly patentable over Fano.

On page 19 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,356,839 (Monde) in view of Fano. According to the method of claim 18, information regarding travel by foot and travel by car is provided to a user in a prioritized manner, based on a weather condition. For example, the user is provided information regarding foot travel at a higher priority than travel by car if it is a day without rain.

The Examiner admitted on page 19 of the Office Action that Monde does not explicitly indicate prioritizing travel information based on a weather condition, as identified by the language of claim 18. The Examiner relies on impermissible hindsight in concluding that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the teachings of Monde with the teachings of Fano to "give higher priority to certain type of results based on a condition." Applicants respectfully submit that there would have been no motivation to modify the

references, as suggested by the Examiner and that the Examiner has merely relied on impermissible hindsight in combining the references.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

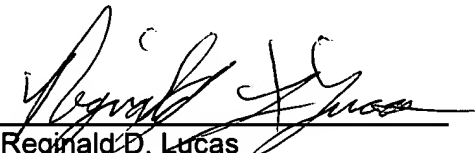
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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